



Dear Neighbors:

I want to thank everyone that lives in the greater New Castle area, our city residents, businesses, and support organizations for their help and continued assistance as we manage the challenges of COVID-19. Keeping everyone safe was and remains our priority and while Battery Park, stores, museums and restaurants closed or limited their operations, I appreciate the patience and sacrifices that were made.

Let me also thank the New Castle City Police Department, our Public Works Department and all of our City employees who continued to provide the "regular order" of services we have come to appreciate over the years. I am also grateful to our friends at the Good Will Fire Company and the Municipal Services Commission for their fine work during these uncertain times.

I have ended the "Declaration of Emergency" in our City effective Monday, June 1st. That means local decisions in our community now revert completely back to "regular order." However, let's remain diligent and implement the safety precautions public health professionals have recommended, and follow the Governor's policies until statewide Emergency Orders are lifted.

Only time and history will tell us whether we managed the virus spread proportionately. For now, I don't know the answer. Unlike my experience working in Washington on September 11, 2001, we quickly learned the identity of our enemy and took steps to protect our homeland. By contrast, today's foe is an elusive threat and only with the passage of time and steadfast patience will a growing body of evidence and science emerge to guide us with our decision making.

In closing, my sincerest thoughts and prayers are with those families and friends who lost someone to COVID-19 or anything else. Your ability to be with those you loved or even mourn them was limited. And for that, as a member of all humanity, I am deeply sorry.

Please be safe, ask questions and keep things in perspective. Together we will find our way.

Respectfully,

*Michael J. Quaranta*

Mayor

MJQ